



Idaho Outdoor Recreation Demand Assessment

IDAHO

Methodology

In July, 2002, the SCORP Task Force met to identify outdoor recreation issues of importance in Idaho. Task Force members were later contacted by email and asked to prioritize those issues. From those two exercises, Idaho Outdoor Recreation Data Center (ORDC) Coordinator Rick Just developed a series of issue-oriented statements for use in a statewide recreation demand survey of the general public. Respondents would be asked to rate the importance of each statement on a scale of 1 (very important) to 7 (not at all important). As one way to test that component of the survey instrument, Task Force members were given the chance to rank each statement through an anonymous web survey. Twenty-five members were asked to participate and 22 did so.

Concurrent with the Task Force survey, the full recreation demand survey was under development by the Outdoor Recreation Data Center. Using an Oregon survey, itself based on a similar instrument from Florida, as the foundation, ORDC designed an instrument specific to Idaho's needs. The design underwent extensive testing. About two dozen Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation employees in various job classifications filled out the survey and gave their suggestions on how to improve it. The draft survey was emailed to about a dozen recreation professionals outside the agency for their comments. Tedd McDonald, PhD, a psychology professor at Boise State University with considerable research experience, reviewed and commented on the design. Finally, the Research Methods (PA 503) class in Boise State University's Masters of Public Administration program, taught by Patricia Fredericksen, PhD, critiqued the much-revised instrument. One result of the testing was that three additional statements were added to the opinion page of the survey.

Introductory letters were sent to 4,000 randomly selected households in Idaho explaining the survey in late October, followed by the survey itself a week later. Each survey packet included a self-addressed business reply envelope for the convenience of respondents. We received 1,097 usable responses, however only 1015 made it back in time for data entry. That gave us a 25-percent response rate, which was good enough for a confidence level of 95 percent and a confidence interval of plus or minus 3.07.

Comparison of Issue Importance

There were some noteworthy differences in the ranking of issues between the Task Force and the public survey respondents, although there were no more than three degrees of difference (see chart on next page) in the rankings of six of the first seven items. Statement two, regarding public access, was not on the original Task Force questionnaire. Beyond the top seven public issues, there was substantial variation between public ranking and ranking by the Task Force.

Of particular note is the issue ranked 16th by the public and second by the Task Force. Idaho has few models where trails connect communities with other communities or major recreation opportunities. Task Force members, who are recreation professionals, have most likely seen more examples of that

ISSUE	Public Rank	Task Force Rank	Degrees of Difference
Protecting water quality	1	1	0
Protecting existing access to public lands	2	*	NA
Protecting natural resources on public lands	3	3	0
Educating youth about natural resources and the environment	4	6 ^a	2
Controlling invasive species	5	7	2
Educating adults about natural resources and the environment	6	9	3
Providing recreation safety instruction for youth	7	10	3
Providing outdoor recreation education for youth	8	12 ^a	4
Providing access for the disabled	9	*	NA
Rehabilitating outdoor recreation facilities	10	4	6
Providing additional access to public lands for outdoor recreation	11	11	0
Providing recreation safety instruction for adults	12	*	NA
Providing recreation facilities to encourage exercise for health	13	13	0
Acquiring land for recreational use	14	6 ^a	8
Managing dispersed recreation use on public lands	15	5	10
Providing recreational trails to connect communities with each other and with recreation areas	16	2	14
Providing designated ATV trail systems	17	*	NA
Providing designated cross-country skiing trail systems	18	8	10
Providing designated snowmobile trail systems	19	12 ^a	7

* Issue not included on Task Force survey

^a Tied in the Task Force survey

type of recreational opportunity than have members of the general public. Even at number 16, the public saw this as a somewhat positive issue, with a mean at 3.7 (4 representing neutrality).

It is interesting to note that the lowest ranking issues with the general public—providing designated trail systems for ATVs, cross-country skiers and snowmobiles—rank virtually the same for self-described users of such trail systems. This is an area that deserves some additional research. Are users simply happy with the systems they have in place now, or do they assume that creation of additional designated opportunities might preclude them from dispersed recreation elsewhere? Also, the statement about managing dispersed use on public lands generated little interest in the general public, though it ranked number five with Task Force members. They hear frequently about “controlling ATVs,” for instance. The term itself, “dispersed use,” may have little meaning to the public without further definition.

The low ranking of what are essentially trail issues is particularly surprising, again because public land managers hear concerns frequently from the public about trails. The seeming dichotomy begs more study. Issues regarding regulation of ATVs, competition for resources between backcountry skiers and snowmobilers, and multiple use trails vs. single use trails are polarizing. Research directed at specific user groups and designed to parse the issues is sorely needed.

Comparing Survey Methods

ORDC wanted to give as many Idahoans as possible the opportunity to participate. Concurrent with the mail out survey, ORDC made an identical web-based survey available to all Idahoans at www.idahorecsurvey.org. A statewide news release announced that the survey would be active for two weeks. A few days before the survey was to end, ORDC sent out another release reminding Idahoans they had one last chance to participate. The survey, hosted by WebSurveyor, was secured so that it would not accept multiple entries from the same IP address.

The web-based survey ended November 20, 2002, the same day selected as the deadline for returning the mail-out surveys. On that day ORDC deactivated the Internet survey and downloaded the data from 700 respondents. With a minor security modification, the web survey interface then became the data entry interface for the mail-out survey. Data were isolated from each survey to avoid any cross-contamination and survey URL was blocked to prevent unauthorized data entry. It was important to ORDC to keep the efforts independent so that we could compare the results. Web-based surveys are substantially less expensive to conduct, so they have much appeal to researchers. However, respondents are usually self-selected. ORDC wanted to see how closely those respondents' answers paralleled the answers from the random sample survey.

And how did they compare? Not closely at all (see results, following pages). Those using the web survey tended to be much more recreation oriented than the general population and much more oriented toward nonmotorized recreation. There are likely at least two reasons that is the case. First, news releases announcing the survey were usually published in outdoor recreation sections of newspapers statewide. That biased the sample toward people already inclined to have an interest in outdoor recreation. Second, at least one nonmotorized group promoted the survey to its members.

Research literature strongly suggests that there is no generalizability to the population at large with Internet surveys. By their nature, samples are usually self-selected and biased toward those who regularly use the Internet. Respondents tend to have a higher education level and higher income than the general population.

While we will put little credence on the results of this Internet survey, the Outdoor Recreation Data Center will continue to test web surveys and use them when appropriate. Information gathered in that method from a finite population, such as activity-specific recreationists, could still be used, because the sample could be randomized. That assumes researchers have all email addresses of the population and that there is not a significant percentage of the population without email addresses. That situation does not currently exist, but is likely to exist in the not-to-distant future.

The following questions were taken verbatim from the 2002 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey. Where possible, the look of the survey was also retained. We have used a grid similar to what respondents saw on the survey instrument but, for the sake of comparison, have added columns to reflect results from the Internet survey (in most cases) as well as the mail out survey. All numbers, unless otherwise stated, are percentages of total respondents.

Section 1: Sightseeing, and Touring Activities

Q1. Please look at the activities listed below. About how many times did **you** participate in each activity during the **past 12 months**? Write your answer on the line next to the activity.

Sightseeing/driving for pleasure	Visiting cultural or historical sites, museums
Visiting a National Park Service site in Idaho	Visiting an Idaho State Park
Recreating in city parks	Recreating in county parks
Visiting a national forest	Recreating on BLM managed land

Results from Mail Out Survey

	SIGHTSEE	NPS	CITYPRK	USFS	HISTORIC	STTPRK	CNTYPRK
N Valid	409	361	488	500	489	387	300
Missing	606	654	527	515	526	628	715
Mean	3.42	9.961	13.3914	8.016	8.3456	4.251	8.397
Median	2.00	4.000	5.0000	3.000	3.0000	2.000	3.000
% participating or visiting at least once	40%	36%	48%	49%	48%	38%	30%

NOTE: Internet data, used only for comparison, were not compiled for the section above. Data about recreating on BLM land were lost due to improper coding.

The following questions ask you to check a box if you participated in an activity, and to check a box if your children participated in an activity.

Section 2: Snow Activities

Q2. Please look at the winter activities listed to the right. Put a mark next to each activity **you** took part in and a mark next to each activity **your children** took part in during the **past 12 months**. If neither you nor your children took part in any of these activities, move to Section 3.

Snow Activities	INTERNET		MAILOUT	
	You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids
Downhill skiing	41	20.4	24	21.4
Backcountry skiing	29	6.1	8	3.2
Snowmobiling	28.6	13.1	19.4	15
Snowboarding	14.2	11.8	16.3	5.9
Cross-country skiing	1.5	10.4	14.4	5.6
Sledding	25.2	21	27.3	24.9
Skate skiing	13	3.9	4	2.4
Snowshoeing	33.5	8.5	12.9	3.8

Section 3: Swimming Activities

Q3. Please look at the swimming activities listed to the right. Put a mark next to each activity **you** took part in and a mark next to each activity **your children** took part in during the **past 12 months**. If neither you nor your children took part in any of these activities, move to Section 4.

Swimming	INTERNET		MAIL OUT	
	You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids
Swimming in a pond, lake or river	60.8	33.7	44.8	38
SCUBA diving/Snorkeling	12	4.1	6.1	3.4
Swimming in a public outdoor pool	22.8	21.3	26.3	33.2
Swimming in a canal or ditch	4.5	3.7	4.8	7.2

Section 4: Outdoor Sports and Games Activities

Q4. Please look at the activities listed BELOW. Put a mark next to each activity **you** participated in and a mark next to each activity **your children** participated in during the **past 12 months**. If neither you nor your children took part in any of these activities, move to Section 5

	INTERNET		MAIL OUT			INTERNET		MAIL OUT	
	You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids		You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids
Golf	27.7	9.7	33.3	17.7	Rock climbing	20.3	9.2	7.4	10.9
Rugby	.3	.3	.2	.5	Outdoor basketball	12.8	9.6	12.9	18.4
Frisbee golf	8.9	4.8	4.6	4.3	Lawn bowling	2.5	.8	1.5	.7
Badminton	4.9	4.1	6.1	5.7	Softball	13.9	8.5	12.9	13.5
Hang gliding	.4	.1	.7	.1	Football	8.5	8	6.5	14.9
Horseshoes	22.4	6.9	22.5	8.9	Volleyball	12.1	7.3	11	13.6
Baseball	11	7.7	10.7	16.8	Outdoor tennis	11.7	5.8	8.5	5.9
Soccer	14.6	7.9	5.5	17.3	Skydiving	2.1	.6	1.1	.2
Ultimate Frisbee	6.1	2.7	2.4	3.3					

Section 5: Fishing Activities

Q5. Please look at the fishing activities listed to the right. Put a mark next to each activity **you** participated in and a mark next to each activity **your children** participated in during the **past 12 months**.

If neither you nor your children took part in any of these activities, move to Section 6.

Lake and Reservoir Fishing	INTERNET		MAIL OUT	
	You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids
On a lake from a motorized boat	27.5	13.7	32.7	20.1
On a lake from a non -motorized boat	21.3	8.9	20.3	13.4
On a lake from the bank or shore	42.7	19.7	46.3	29.8
On a lake from a dock or pier	21.3	11.3	26	17.4
On a lake from a float tube	15.1	3.1	13.8	5.6

River Fishing	INTERNET		MAIL OUT	
	You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids
On a river from a motorized boat	13.7	5.1	15.7	8.3
On a river from a non -motorized boat	16.8	6.1	12.4	7.7
On a river from the bank or shore	44.5	19.2	50.5	30.1
On a river from a dock or pier	10.3	6.2	14.6	9.2
On a river from a float tube	8.2	1.7	5.6	2.5

Section 6: Boating Activities

Q6. Now we want to ask about BOATING activities **other than fishing**. Please look at the boating activities listed below. Put a mark next to each activity **you** participated in and a mark next to each activity **your children** participated in during the **past 12 months**.

Boating	INTERNET		MAIL OUT			INTERNET		MAIL OUT	
	You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids		You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids
Canoeing	30.4	11.8	14.9	9.3	Windsurfing	2.4	.7	.4	.2
Kayaking	21.4	6.6	6	4.2	Sailing	5.4	2.8	2.3	1
Personal watercraft (Jetski, etc.)	13	6.6	10.1	8.8	Water-skiing or other towing water sports	22.1	13.4	18.8	18.6
Cataracting	4.9	1.7	1.8	.4	Power boating for pleasure (excludes fishing & waterskiing)	21.5	11.8	22.9	14.4
Whitewater Rafting	27.6	10.1	16.2	8.1					
Jet boating	10	3.1	9.3	4.8					

Section 7: Hunting and Shooting Activities

Q7. Please look at the hunting and shooting activities listed below. Put a mark next to each activity **you** participated in and a mark next to each activity **your children** participated in during the **past 12 months**. If neither you nor your children took part in these activities, move to Section 8.

	INTERNET		MAIL OUT			INTERNET		MAIL OUT	
	You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids		You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids
Big game hunting (rifle)	27.2	8	34.2	17.5	Trapping	2	.7	1.8	1.1
Big game hunting (archery)	9.6	3	8.1	4.6	Rifle/pistol target shooting	32	13.8	35.5	18.6
Big game hunting (black powder)	5.2	1.4	6.5	2.3	Skeet/trap/sporting clay shooting	15.8	4.9	15.8	7.6
Waterfowl hunting	11.8	4.5	13.1	8.2	Archery target shooting	9.7	4.8	9.2	6.5
Upland bird or small game hunting	20.4	6.5	24.8	12.7	Hunting pests such as rodents	16.5	7	18.4	10

Section 8: Harvesting

Q8. Please look at the harvesting activities listed in the table to the right. Put a mark next to each activity **you** participated in and a mark next to each activity **your children** participated in during the **past 12 months**? If neither you nor your children took part in any of these activities, move to Section 9.

Harvesting	INTERNET		MAIL OUT	
	You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids
Berry picking	42.4	16.6	32.5	15.8
Mushroom hunting	13.5	4.5	11.8	4.2
Native plant gathering	7.9	2.4	6.5	1.7
Firewood gathering/cutting	35.8	13.5	31.6	15.4

Section 9: Trail, Road, and Back Country Activities (with or without dog)

Q9. We know that dogs are often an important part of recreation activities. Our next two tables recognize that. Please look at the activities listed. Put a mark next to each activity **you** participated in and a mark next to each activity **your children** participated in during the **past 12 months**. This time, tell us when your dog gets to come along by checking the **Your Dog** box next to appropriate activities where they participate. If neither you nor your children took part in any of these activities, move to Section 10.

	INTERNET			MAIL OUT		
	You	Your Kids	Your Dog	You	Your Kids	Your Dog
Biking	61.8	26.6	14.2	35.1	25.3	8.2
Hiking	78	36.6	31.1	55.3	33.3	25.3
Horseback riding	23.2	10	8.5	16.1	10.5	5.5
Orienteering	11.5	4.1	2.8	3.5	1.9	1.1
Geocaching	5.8	2	1.7	1.3	.7	.6
Snowshoeing	30.3	10.8	7.3	10.6	3.7	3.1
ATV riding (All-terrain vehicles include 3 & 4 wheel "straddle-the-saddle" vehicles)	25.6	13.9	6.8	26.8	18.2	6.1
Four-wheel driving (4-wheel driving includes jeeps, pickups, SUVs, etc.)	34.5	14.8	13.4	33.4	17.3	11.1

	INTERNET			MAIL OUT		
	You	Your Kids	Your Dog	You	Your Kids	Your Dog
In-line skating (rollerblading)	11.7	8.3	2.7	7.7	13.6	1.7
Skateboarding	1.7	7.3	.3	1.4	10.4	.9
Running	33.4	9.3	12.5	20.2	22	9
Walking	69.3	25.2	33	64.3	29.8	28.8
Cross-country skiing	38.3	10.7	9.2	11.7	3.8	3.3
Llama packing	2.7	.8	.7	.5	.2	.1
Motorcycling (dual sport or dirt bike)	17.5	10.1	1.8	12.3	7.9	1
Snowmobile riding	28	14.6	2.4	18.4	14.5	2

Section 10: Nature Study Activities

Q10. Please look at the activities listed in the table on the right. Put a mark next to each activity **you** participated in and a mark next to each activity **your children** participated in during the **past 12 months**. If neither you nor your children took part in any of these activities, move to Section 11.

Nature Study	INTERNET		MAIL OUT	
	You	Your Kids	You	Your Kids
Bird watching	44.4	13	35.9	12.6
Viewing fish	41.3	15.6	35.9	17.6
Watching wildlife other than birds or fish	64.6	22.7	51.8	22.3
Outdoor photography	56.6	16.2	33.1	9.1
Tracking animal signs	31.7	10.3	22.4	10.4
Collecting (rocks, plants, butterflies, etc.)	25.6	14.8	25.7	16.9

Section 11: Camping Activities

Q11. Now we would like to ask about CAMPING. Mark the type of camping you did in the last 12 months by check what kind of campsite you used (see definitions). Don't forget to mark the box for kids and dogs if they went camping.

Definitions

Developed site: Well-marked campsites in designated campgrounds.

Dispersed site: Finding your own campsite, **not** within a designated campground.

Group site: Designed for groups camping together within a designated campground.

Type of camping activity	INTERNET			MAIL OUT		
	Developed site	Dispersed site	Group site	Developed site	Dispersed site	Group site
RV/trailer camping	29	27.6	9.4	34.2	22.3	9.9
Vehicle camping with a tent	42.4	46.2	14.1	27	25.9	8.5
Bicycle camping (Where a bicycle brought you to your campsite)	5.4	6.6	2.4	2.4	2	.7
Horseback camping (Where a horse brought you to your campsite)	5.1	13.1	4.4	1.8	4.3	.7
ATV camping (Where an All Terrain Vehicle brought you to your campsite)	3.4	8.3	2.3	1.7	6	.9
Motorbike (Where a motorbike brought you to your campsite)	2.4	6.1	1	1.4	2.5	.6
Snow camping	3.4	13.2	1.5	1.3	4.7	1.1
Yurt camping	10.3	3	1.7	1.7	.3	.5
Public cabin	7.3	2.8	2	6.6	.6	.7
Boat camping (Where you camped aboard your boat, or used a boat to get you there)	6.5	9.4	2.5	2.8	5.7	.9
Backpacking	10.1	32.5	3.8	3.9	11.7	1.5

Type of camping activity	INTERNET			MAIL OUT		
	You	Your kids	Your dog	You	Your kids	Your dog
RV/trailer camping	34.8	20.4	21.5	34.2	23.4	16.6
Vehicle camping with a tent	48.7	26.5	26.9	35.2	26.6	17.1
Bicycle camping (Where a bicycle brought you to your campsite)	7.2	3.7	2.5	2.8	3.1	1.2
Horseback camping (Where a horse brought you to your campsite)	11.8	4.2	6.9	3.9	2.5	2.4
ATV camping (Where an All Terrain Vehicle brought you to your campsite)	8	5.5	3.8	5.5	4	2.6
Motorbike (Where a motorbike brought you to your campsite)	5.8	3.2	1.8	2.6	1.9	.3
Snow camping	12.5	4.2	3.5	4.3	3	1.6
Yurt camping	9.3	1.8	2.5	1.9	1.1	.8
Public cabin	7.7	2.7	3.7	5.6	4.4	2.2
Boat camping (Where you camped aboard your boat, or used a boat to get you there)	10.4	5.5	5.6	6.5	3.1	2.8
Backpacking	28.9	11.7	14.5	11.3	6.7	5.5

Section 13: Trails and Roads

Q14. Now we would like to learn about the kinds of trails and roads you have used for activities in Idaho. Please check the **ONE** category where the **MOST** time was spent for **each activity** during the **past 12 months**. If you did not participate, please leave spaces blank.

Definitions

Community Trail: Any pathway within or nearby a city or town designated for use by the public, but not designated for use by motorized vehicles.

Community Sidewalk/Street: Any street, sidewalk or designated bikeway along a roadway.

Backcountry Trail: Trails located in more primitive settings, such as National Forest trails.

Backcountry Road: Unpaved roads through public or private lands, such as logging roads.

Groomed Trail: Trail smoothed and tracked by mechanical means.

Marked Trail: Not groomed.

Off Trail: Any recreational travel not using a marked trail.

Please check only one location for each activity you did

	MAILOUT	MAILOUT	MAILOUT	MAILOUT	MAILOUT
Non-motorized Summer/Fall/Spring	Community Trail	Community Sidewalk/Street	Backcountry Trail	Backcountry Road	Off Trail
Backpacking	2.7	1.6	74.5	4.3	16.8
Biking	30	43.8	14.1	10	2.1
Hiking	14.9	2.7	56.8	6.8	19.9
Horseback riding	10	5.8	47.5	13.3	23.3
In-line skating	37.6	58.8	1.2	1.2	1.2
Skateboarding	16.7	77.8	0	1.9	3.7
Orienteering	0	0	46.7	6.7	46.7
Geocaching	30	0	30	20	20
Running	34.7	51.7	8	5.1	.6
Walking	29.6	44.7	11.5	7.3	6.9

	MAIL OUT	MAIL OUT	MAIL OUT
Winter Activity	Groomed Trail	Marked Trail (not groomed)	Off Trail
Skate Skiing	89.5	5.3	5.3
Cross-Country Skiing	59	18	23
Snowshoeing	10.2	24.5	65.3
Snowmobiling	41.3	23.1	35.7

	MAIL OUT	MAIL OUT	MAIL OUT
Summer/Fall/ Spring Activity	Backcountry Trail	Backcountry Road	Off Trail
All-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding	29.5	57	13.5
Four-wheel driving	9.8	85	5.1
Motorcycling (dual sport or dirt bike)	38.5	39.6	21.9

Q15. Next we want to find out about the surface of trails and roads that were used. For each activity, please check the **ONE SURFACE TYPE** where the **MOST** time was spent during the last 12 months. If you did not participate in an activity, please leave spaces blank.

Non-motorized Activities (please check only one surface type for each activity you did)

	MAIL OUT	MAIL OUT	MAIL OUT
Activity	Paved (blacktop, concrete, etc.)	Surfaced (gravel, woodchips, etc.)	Not Surfaced (dirt/natural surface)
Backpacking	2.3	1.8	95.9
Biking	67.1	10	22.9
Hiking	3.5	6.7	89.8
Horseback riding	1	.8	97.7
In-line skating	97.9	0	2.1
Skateboarding	96.4	0	3.6
Running	65.3	12.1	22.6
Walking	60.1	10.5	29.3

Section 14: Opinions

Q16. We would like your opinion on the relative importance of issues that may affect your enjoyment of outdoor recreation in Idaho. Please indicate how important these issues are to you by circling a number from 1 (very important) to 7 (least important).

	INTERNET								MAIL OUT						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rehabilitating outdoor recreation facilities	25.3	19.9	20.8	16.1	9.4	4.2	4.2		32.7	14.4	21.2	17.5	7.5	3.1	3.1
Acquiring land for recreational use	48.3	19.6	10.2	9.1	3.9	3.5	5.5		30	13.5	15.6	14.7	9.4	6.4	10.3
Providing recreational trails to connect communities with each other and with recreation areas	34.4	19	14.5	13.7	5.6	6.8	6		19.8	12.2	15.7	18.4	11.7	8.1	14
Providing additional access to public lands for outdoor recreation	47	16.2	13.2	7.2	3.8	4.5	8.1		36.6	13.9	15.5	13.2	6.1	5.9	8.8
Controlling Invasive species (such as noxious weeds and non-native animals)	31.5	22.2	19.4	12.2	6.6	4.2	3.9		40.4	16.2	15.9	14.7	5.2	3.8	3.9
Providing outdoor recreation education for youth	30.4	22.2	20.3	11.9	5.7	3.9	5.7		38	15.7	17.4	15	6.2	4.7	3.2
Educating youth about natural resources and the environment	43.2	19.1	14.3	10	5.1	2.8	5.5		44.2	18.5	14	12.3	4.2	3.3	3.2
Educating adults about natural resources and the environment	39.1	21.7	14.3	9.9	4.5	4.2	6.2		39.7	17.6	15.5	13.5	5.8	4.4	3.5
Providing recreation safety instruction for youth	29	17.2	22.8	13.3	7.8	3.9	6.1		37.9	17.6	18.3	13.9	4.7	4	3.6
Providing recreation safety instruction for adults	22.3	16	20.6	16.7	8.5	6.8	9.1		30.8	15.9	17.3	17	17.2	5.9	5.9
Providing recreation facilities to encourage exercise for health	19.8	18.2	18.5	18	9.6	6.7	9.2		28.6	14.2	18.5	18	8.5	5.6	6.5
Protecting natural resources on public lands	44.6	21.7	12.9	9.6	3.5	2.9	4.9		47.8	17.6	14.7	11	4.2	2	1.6
Protecting water quality	55.4	19.9	9.1	6.5	2.6	2.3	4.1		66.6	14.2	10.5	5.2	.6	.6	.6
Providing designated cross-country skiing trail systems	22.6	16.3	16.1	15.7	8.1	4.6	16.5		12.8	7.3	13.7	18.8	12.6	11.3	23.4
Providing designated snowmobile trail systems	22.3	9.4	11.3	11	10	7.2	28.9		15.5	6.8	11.5	16.9	12.9	9.8	26.6
Managing dispersed recreation use on public lands	26.5	19.4	19.1	18.6	6.7	3.1	6.6		20.1	13.7	19	24.3	10.4	4.7	6.8
Providing designated ATV trail systems	22.1	14.8	13.5	10.6	6.4	6.4	26.3		22.3	9.2	12.2	16.4	7.9	9.3	22.8
Protecting existing access to public lands	65.9	13.8	6.1	3.6	2.5	1.7	6.4		54.1	19.5	11.2	8	2.8	1.1	3.1
Providing access for the disabled	23.4	18.1	23.1	17.4	6.8	4.6	6.5		35.7	18.4	16	16.8	4.4	3.5	5.3

Section 15: Time for Recreation

Time is precious. We know you would rather be using your time right now for recreation. Thanks for giving up a few minutes to complete this survey. You are nearly finished. The next questions are about time. We would like to know how many hours you are generally willing to travel to recreate. Please check the box that applies:

Q17. For a recreational activity that takes less than a day, the most I am willing to travel is:		INTERNET	MAIL OUT
	Less than 1 hour	4.1	9.9
	1 to 2 hours	42.8	51.8
	2 to 3 hours	35.7	29.2
	3 hours or more	12.6	9

Q19. For a recreation site where I will spend only one night, the most I am willing to travel is:		INTERNET	MAIL OUT
	Less than 1 hour	.1	1.6
	1 to 2 hours	9.6	20.4
	2 to 3 hours	34.3	36.8
	3 to 4 hours	29.8	21.8
	4 to 5 hours	14.5	8.2
	5 to 6 hours	6.9	5.6
	6 to 7 hours	1.5	2.1
	7 hours or more	1.9	3.6

Q20. For a recreation site where I will spend at least two nights , the most I am willing to travel is:		INTERNET	MAIL OUT
	Less than 1 hour	0	.5
	1 to 2 hours	.9	3.2
	2 to 3 hours	9.9	16.7
	3 to 4 hours	17.5	22.7
	4 to 5 hours	20.1	14.6
	5 to 6 hours	17.4	15.8
	6 to 7 hours	11	10.8
	7 hours or more	23.2	15.7

Section 15: Demographic and Other Information

We need to learn a little about respondents so we can see how different types of people feel about recreation issues and what their particular needs are. We know this is very personal information. That's why we made sure no one is able to see it and know who you are. It is absolutely confidential.

Q21. How many people currently live in your household?

INTERNET	MAIL OUT
2.73 Mean	2.79 Mean

Q22. What is your household's current annual income before taxes? Include all persons that regularly live at this household. (Check one)

INTERNET	MAIL OUT		INTERNET	MAIL OUT		INTERNET	MAIL OUT	
0	3	Less than \$9,999	10.5	15	\$40,000 to \$49,999	10.7	5.3	\$80,000 to \$89,999
1.7	7.9	\$10,000 to \$19,999	12.3	11.6	\$50,000 to \$59,999	9	3.1	\$90,000 to \$99,999
4.8	12.6	\$20,000 to \$29,999	10.7	8.5	\$60,000 to \$69,999	6.6	2.9	\$100,000 to \$109,999
10.1	13.3	\$30,000 to \$39,999	11	8	\$70,000 to \$79,999	10.2	8.7	More than \$110,000

Q23. What was your age on your last birthday?

INTERNET	MAIL OUT
43.8 Mean	47.7 Mean

Q24. What is your gender?

	INTERNET	MAIL OUT
MALE	68.6	67.5
FEMALE	31.4	32.5

Q25. How much formal education do you have?

	INTERNET	MAIL OUT
No high school diploma or equivalent	.9	3.4
High school diploma or equivalent	6.6	23
Some college	28.6	37.2
4-year college degree	29.3	18
Some graduate work	10.8	7.5
Graduate degree	23.8	10.9

Q26. What is your zip code? ____

Q27. How do you obtain information about recreational areas in the state of Idaho? Please check all that apply.

	INTERNET	MAIL OUT
Brochures	63	59.9
Magazine story or ad	44.1	35.9
Newspaper story or ad	58.3	50
TV	26.3	37.8
Radio	15.7	17
Internet	67	34.2
Telephone inquiry to park or agency	30.7	20
Written inquiry to park or agency	8.4	5.2
Highway signs	34.9	38.5
Travel agent	1.3	2.1

Written Comments

The 2002 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey also gave respondents an opportunity to comment on whatever they wished. The majority of those comments fell into the categories in the box to the right. When comments fell within a particular agency's area of responsibility, those comments were passed on to that agency.

Item	No. Commenting
Keep public lands/roads open for multiple use	60
Improve hunting and fishing	27
Control ATVs	18
Provide various improvements in state parks	13
Preserve public lands/limit motorized access	11
Provide more nonmotorized opportunities	9
Complaints about crowding and increased population	7
Provide more natural resource education	7
Provide better access for the disabled	6
Provide waterways improvements	6
Provide better information	5
Provide better law enforcement on public lands	4
Control noxious weeds on public lands	4
Lower recreation fees	4
Find a way to control litter	4

Activity Participation

The following pages contain several sets of tables showing activity participation levels, preferences for certain types of facilities based on use, and distances recreationists are willing to travel. Each table, unless otherwise noted, shows the percentage of those responding to our survey who participated in the activity in the preceding 12 months.

Walking continues to be the most popular recreation activity in Idaho for Adult Activities and the new category Activities with Dogs. Idaho adults also utilize much of the state's natural resources for watching wildlife, bird watching and outdoor photography. Idaho kids are most active in swimming, hiking, walking and biking .

Top Ten Activities, Adults, Youth, Dogs

Top Ten Adult Activities		
	Activity	Adults
1	Walking	64.3
2	Hiking	55.3
3	Watching wildlife other than birds or fish	51.8
4	Swimming in a pond, lake or river	44.8
5	Viewing fish	35.9
6	Bird watching	35.9
7	Biking	35.1
8	Four-wheel driving (Jeeps, pickups, SUVs, etc.)	33.4
9	Golf	33.3
10	Outdoor photography	33.1

Top Ten Activities for Kids (as reported by adults)		
	Activity	Kids
1	Swimming in a pond, lake or river	38
2	Hiking	33.3
3	Swimming in a public outdoor pool	33.2
4	Walking	29.8
5	Biking	25.3
6	Watching wildlife other than birds or fish	22.3
7	Running	22
8	Water-skiing or other towing water sports	18.6
9	Outdoor basketball	18.4
10	ATV riding	18.2

Top Ten Activities with Dogs (as reported by people)		
	Activity	Dogs
1	Walking	28.8
2	Hiking	25.3
3	Four-wheel driving (Jeeps, pickups, SUVs, etc.)	11.1
4	Running	9
5	Biking	8.2
6	ATV riding	6.1
7	Horseback riding	5.5
8	Cross-country skiing	3.3
9	Snowshoeing	3.1
10	Snowmobile riding	2

Adult Recreation Activity Rankings

	Activity	Adults
1	Walking	64.3
2	Hiking	55.3
3	Watching wildlife other than birds or fish	51.8
4	Swimming in a pond, lake or river	44.8
5	Viewing fish	35.9
6	Bird watching	35.9
7	Biking	35.1
8	Four-wheel driving (Jeeps, pickups, SUVs, etc.)	33.4
9	Golf	33.3
10	Outdoor photography	33.1
11	Berry picking	32.5
12	Firewood gathering/cutting	31.6
13	ATV riding	26.8
14	Swimming in a public outdoor pool	26.3
15	Collecting (rocks, plants, butterflies, etc.)	25.7
16	Power boating for pleasure (not fishing & waterskiing)	22.9
17	Horseshoes	22.5
18	Tracking animal signs	22.4
19	Running	20.2
20	Water-skiing or other towing water sports	18.8
21	Snowmobile riding	18.4
22	Whitewater Rafting	16.2
23	Horseback riding	16.1
24	Canoeing	14.9
25	Outdoor basketball	12.9
26	Softball	12.9
27	Motorcycling (dual sport or dirt bike)	12.3
28	Mushroom hunting	11.8
29	Cross-country skiing	11.7
30	Volleyball	11
31	Baseball	10.7
32	Snowshoeing	10.6
33	Personal watercraft (Jetski, etc.)	10.1
34	Jet boating	9.3
35	Outdoor tennis	8.5
36	In-line skating (rollerblading)	7.7
37	Rock climbing	7.4
38	Football	6.5
39	Native plant gathering	6.5
40	Badminton	6.1
41	SCUBA diving/Snorkeling	6.1
42	SCUBA diving/Snorkeling	6.1
43	Kayaking	6
44	Soccer	5.5
45	Swimming in a canal or ditch	4.8
46	Frisbee golf	4.6
47	Orienteering	3.5
48	Ultimate Frisbee	2.4
49	Sailing	2.3
50	Cataracting	1.8
51	Lawn bowling	1.5
52	Skateboarding	1.4
53	Geocaching	1.3
54	Skydiving	1.1
55	Hang gliding	0.7
56	Llama packing	0.5
57	Windsurfing	0.4
58	Rugby	0.2

Youth Recreation Activity Rankings

	Activity	Kids
1	Swimming in a pond, lake or river	38
2	Hiking	33.3
3	Swimming in a public outdoor pool	33.2
4	Walking	29.8
5	Biking	25.3
6	Watching wildlife other than birds or fish	22.3
7	Running	22
8	Water-skiing or other towing water sports	18.6
9	Outdoor basketball	18.4
10	ATV riding	18.2
11	Golf	17.7
12	Viewing fish	17.6
13	Four-wheel driving (Jeeps, pickups, SUVs, etc.)	17.3
14	Soccer	17.3
15	Collecting (rocks, plants, butterflies, etc.)	16.9
16	Baseball	16.8
17	Berry picking	15.8
18	Firewood gathering/cutting	15.4
19	Football	14.9
20	Snowmobile riding	14.5
21	Power boating for pleasure (Not fishing & water skiing)	14.4
22	In-line skating (rollerblading)	13.6
23	Volleyball	13.6
24	Softball	13.5
25	Bird watching	12.6
26	Rock climbing	10.9
27	Horseback riding	10.5
28	Skateboarding	10.4
29	Tracking animal signs	10.4
30	Canoeing	9.3
31	Outdoor photography	9.1
32	Horseshoes	8.9
33	Personal watercraft (Jetski, etc.)	8.8
34	Whitewater Rafting	8.1
35	Motorcycling (dual sport or dirt bike)	7.9
36	Swimming in a canal or ditch	7.2
37	Outdoor tennis	5.9
38	Badminton	5.7
39	Jet boating	4.8
40	Frisbee golf	4.3
41	Kayaking	4.2
42	Mushroom hunting	4.2
43	Cross-country skiing	3.8
44	Snowshoeing	3.7
45	SCUBA diving/Snorkeling	3.4
46	SCUBA diving/Snorkeling	3.4
47	Ultimate Frisbee	3.3
48	Orienteering	1.9
49	Native plant gathering	1.7
50	Sailing	1
51	Geocaching	0.7
52	Lawn bowling	0.7
53	Rugby	0.5
54	Cata rafting	0.4
55	Llama packing	0.2
56	Skydiving	0.2
57	Windsurfing	0.2
58	Hang gliding	0.1

Gender Preferences by Activity

Golf and horseshoes are the most popular game activities for both men and women. It is important to note that these figures reflect the percentage of people who participated in an activity at least once during the year.

Horseshoes, for instance, is probably more of an occasional sport for most people, while golf is more likely to be a regular activity. Outdoor Basketball is more popular with men, while volleyball is more popular with women. Softball is almost equally participated by both men and women.

The most popular swimming activity for both men and women is swimming in a pond, lake or river. The most popular boating activity for both men and women is power boating, followed by water-skiing.

Game Activities by Gender

	Games	Women
1	Golf	26.5
2	Horseshoes	21.2
3	Volleyball	14.6
4	Softball	13.4
5	Baseball	10.6
6	Outdoor tennis	10.3
7	Outdoor basketball	8.7
8	Badminton	7.5
9	Rock climbing	7.2
10	Frisbee golf	5.3
11	Soccer	5
12	Football	5
13	Ultimate Frisbee	1.9
14	Lawn bowling	1.2
15	Skydiving	0.9
16	Rugby	0
17	Hang gliding	0

	Games	Men
1	Golf	36.9
2	Horseshoes	23.4
3	Outdoor basketball	15.2
4	Softball	12.9
5	Baseball	11.3
6	Volleyball	9
7	Rock climbing	7.7
8	Outdoor tennis	7.5
9	Football	7.4
10	Soccer	5.9
11	Badminton	5.6
12	Frisbee golf	4.5
13	Ultimate Frisbee	2.7
14	Lawn bowling	1.5
15	Skydiving	1.2
16	Hang gliding	1.1
17	Rugby	0.3

Swimming Activities by Gender

	Swimming	Women
1	Swimming in a pond, lake or river	48.6
2	Swimming in a public outdoor pool	34
3	Swimming in a canal or ditch	5.3
4	SCUBA diving/Snorkeling	5

	Swimming	Men
1	Swimming in a pond, lake or river	44
2	Swimming in a public outdoor pool	25.8
3	SCUBA diving/Snorkeling	6.6
4	Swimming in a canal or ditch	4.8

Boating Activities by Gender

	Boating	Women
1	Power boating for pleasure	21.2
2	Water-skiing	18.4
3	Whitewater Rafting	18.1
4	Canoeing	13.1
5	Personal Watercraft	12.8
6	Jet boating	9
7	Kayaking	4.7
8	Sailing	2.8
9	Cata rafting	2.2
10	Windsurfing	0.9

	Boating	Men
1	Power boating for pleasure	24
2	Water-skiing	19.1
3	Canoeing	16.4
4	Whitewater Rafting	15.8
5	Jet boating	9.8
6	Personal Watercraft	9.2
7	Kayaking	6.9
8	Sailing	2.1
9	Cata rafting	1.7
10	Windsurfing	0.2

Fishing is a popular pastime with both kids and adults. More than 50 percent of adults and 30 percent of kids fish on a river. Men seem to take part more, with 58 percent participating as compared with 38 percent of women. The gender spread is also found with hunting and shooting activities, with 44.4 percent of men hunting big game while only 17.1 percent of women hunt big game.

Fishing Activity Rankings

	Type of Fishing Activity	Adults
1	On a river from the bank or shore	50.5
2	On a lake from the bank or shore	46.3
3	On a lake from a motorized boat	32.7
4	On a lake from a dock or pier	26
5	On a lake from a non -motorized boat	20.3
6	On a river from a motorized boat	15.7
7	On a river from a dock or pier	14.6
8	On a lake from a float tube	13.8
9	On a river from a non -motorized boat	12.4
10	On a river from a float tube	5.6

	Type of Fishing Activity	Kids
1	On a river from the bank or shore	30.1
2	On a lake from the bank or shore	29.8
3	On a lake from a motorized boat	20.1
4	On a lake from a dock or pier	17.4
5	On a lake from a non -motorized boat	13.4
6	On a river from a dock or pier	9.2
7	On a river from a motorized boat	8.3
8	On a river from a non -motorized boat	7.7
9	On a lake from a float tube	5.6
10	On a river from a float tube	2.5

	Fishing	Women
1	On a lake from the bank or shore	38
2	On a river from the bank or shore	36.1
3	On a lake from a motorized boat	23.1
4	On a lake from a dock or pier	22.7
5	On a lake from a non -motorized boat	16.8
6	On a river from a dock or pier	13.4
7	On a river from a motorized boat	10.6
8	On a river from a non -motorized boat	7.5
9	On a lake from a float tube	7.2
10	On a river from a float tube	4.4

	Fishing	Men
1	On a river from the bank or shore	58
2	On a lake from the bank or shore	50.9
3	On a lake from a motorized boat	37.8
4	On a lake from a dock or pier	27.6
5	On a lake from a non -motorized boat	22.1
6	On a river from a motorized boat	18.5
7	On a lake from a float tube	17
8	On a river from a dock or pier	15.3
9	On a river from a non -motorized boat	15.2
10	On a river from a float tube	6.4

Hunting & Shooting Activity Rankings

	Hunting/shooting activity	Adults
1	Rifle/pistol target shooting	35.5
2	Big game hunting (rifle)	34.2
3	Upland bird or small game hunting	24.8
4	Hunting pests such as rodents	18.4
5	Skeet/trap/sporting/clay shooting	15.8
6	Waterfowl hunting	13.1
7	Archery target shooting	9.2
8	Big game hunting (archery)	8.1
9	Big game hunting (black powder)	6.5
10	Trapping	1.8

	Hunting/shooting activity	Kids
1	Rifle/pistol target shooting	18.6
2	Big game hunting (rifle)	17.5
3	Upland bird or small game hunting	12.7
4	Hunting pests such as rodents	10
5	Waterfowl hunting	8.2
6	Skeet/trap/sporting/clay shooting	7.6
7	Archery target shooting	6.5
8	Big game hunting (archery)	4.6
9	Big game hunting (black powder)	2.3
10	Trapping	1.1

	Hunting	Women
1	Rifle/pistol target shooting	17.1
2	Big game hunting (rifle)	14.6
3	Upland bird or small game hunting	9
4	Hunting pests such as rodents	8.7
5	Skeet/trap shooting	5.6
6	Waterfowl hunting	5
7	Archery target shooting	4
8	Big game hunting (archery)	3.4
9	Big game hunting (black powder)	2.8
10	Trapping	0.3

	Hunting	Men
1	Rifle/pistol target shooting	45
2	Big game hunting (rifle)	44.4
3	Upland bird or small game hunting	32.9
4	Hunting pests such as rodents	23.6
5	Skeet/trap shooting	21
6	Waterfowl hunting	17.7
7	Archery target shooting	12
8	Big game hunting (archery)	10.4
9	Big game hunting (black powder)	8.4
10	Trapping	2.6

Watching wildlife is equally participated in by both men and women. Bird watching is more popular with women, while viewing fish is more popular with men. In the harvesting category, the most popular activity with women is berry picking while firewood gathering is the most popular activity with men.

Nature Study Activity Rankings

	Nature Study	Women
1	Watching wildlife other than birds or fish	53
2	Bird watching	42.1
3	Outdoor photography	36.1
4	Viewing fish	34.3
5	Collecting (rocks, plants, butterflies, etc.)	34
6	Tracking animal signs	17.8

	Nature Study	Men
1	Watching wildlife other than birds or fish	52.1
2	Viewing fish	37.2
3	Bird watching	33.2
4	Outdoor photography	32
5	Tracking animal signs	25.2
6	Collecting (rocks, plants, butterflies, etc.)	22.1

Harvesting Activity Rankings

	Harvesting	Women
1	Berry picking	38.9
2	Firewood gathering/cutting	26.5
3	Mushroom hunting	11.8
4	Native plant gathering	10.3

	Harvesting	Men
1	Firewood gathering/cutting	34.7
2	Berry picking	30
3	Mushroom hunting	11.7
4	Native plant gathering	4.7

Trail Preferences

The following tables split out trail type by activity, showing the percentage of adults who participated in these particular activities and used that type of trail for their activity in the past 12 months.

Non-motorized Summer/Fall/ Spring	Community Trail
In-line skating	37.6
Running	34.7
Biking	30
Geocaching	30
Walking	29.6
Skateboarding	16.7
Hiking	14.9
Horseback riding	10
Backpacking	2.7
Orienteering	0

Non-motorized Summer/Fall/ Spring	Sidewalk/ Street
Skateboarding	77.8
In-line skating	58.8
Running	51.7
Walking	44.7
Biking	43.8
Horseback riding	5.8
Hiking	2.7
Backpacking	1.6
Geocaching	0
Orienteering	0

Non-motorized Summer/Fall/ Spring	Off Trail
Orienteering	46.7
Horseback riding	23.3
Geocaching	20
Hiking	19.9
Backpacking	16.8
Walking	6.9
Skateboarding	3.7
Biking	2.1
In-line skating	1.2
Running	0.6

Non-motorized Summer/Fall/ Spring	Backcountry Trail
Backpacking	74.5
Hiking	56.8
Horseback riding	47.5
Orienteering	46.7
Geocaching	30
Biking	14.1
Walking	11.5
Running	8
In-line skating	1.2
Skateboarding	0

Non-motorized Summer/Fall/ Spring	Backcountry Road
Geocaching	20
Horseback riding	13.3
Biking	10
Walking	7.3
Hiking	6.8
Orienteering	6.7
Running	5.1
Backpacking	4.3
Skateboarding	1.9
In-line skating	1.2

Motorized Preferences

Motorized Activity	Backcountry Road
Four-wheel driving	85
All-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding	57
Motorcycling (dual sport or dirt bike)	39.6

Motorized Activity	Backcountry Trail
Motorcycling (dual sport or dirt bike)	38.5
All-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding	29.5
Four-wheel driving	9.8

Motorized Activity	Off Trail
Motorcycling (dual sport or dirt bike)	21.9
All-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding	13.5
Four-wheel driving	5.1

Trail Activities by Gender

Significantly more women listed walking and running as activities they participated in during the preceding 12 months than did men. Women also participated somewhat more than men in hiking, biking, and horseback riding. A much higher percentage of men participated in ATV riding, 4-wheeling and motorcycling.

It is worth noting that gender preferences for individual activity participation seemed to be largely parallel between men and women with the exception of four-wheel driving, where the variance was 19.6 points; walking, where the variance was 16.8 points; and all-terrain vehicle activities where the gender variance was 10.7 points. The gender variation was less than 6 points for all other activities.

Further research is needed to better understand motivation based on gender. If we better understand the underlying impetus behind outdoor recreation preferences, we will be better equipped to provide both genders with suitable opportunities.

	Trail Activities	Women
1	Walking	76.3
2	Hiking	56.7
3	Biking	38.9
4	Running	24.6
5	Four-wheel driving (4-wheel driving includes jeeps, pickups, SUVs, etc.)	20.6
6	Horseback riding	19.9
7	ATV riding (All-terrain vehicles include 3 & 4 wheel "straddle-the-saddle" vehicles)	19.9
8	In-line skating (rollerblading)	10.6
9	Motorcycling (dual sport or dirt bike)	8.4
10	Orienteering	2.2
11	Skateboarding	1.6
12	Geocaching	0.6
13	Llama packing	0.3

	Trail Activities	Men
1	Walking	59.5
2	Hiking	55.3
3	Four-wheel driving (4-wheel driving includes jeeps, pickups, SUVs, etc.)	40.2
4	Biking	33.3
5	ATV riding (All-terrain vehicles include 3 & 4 wheel "straddle-the-saddle" vehicles)	30.6
6	Running	18.6
7	Horseback riding	14.7
8	Motorcycling (dual sport or dirt bike)	14.3
9	In-line skating (rollerblading)	6.5
10	Orienteering	4.1
11	Geocaching	1.7
12	Skateboarding	1.4
13	Llama packing	0.6

Winter Activity Preferences

The two tables below show the percentage of adults and kids who participated in winter outdoor recreation activities at least once in the preceding 12 months.

	Winter Activities	Adults
1	Sledding	27.3
2	Downhill skiing	24
3	Snowmobiling	19.4
4	Snowboarding	16.3
5	Cross-country skiing	14.4
6	Snowshoeing	12.9
7	Backcountry skiing	8
8	Skate skiing	4

	Winter Activities	Kids
1	Sledding	24.9
2	Downhill skiing	21.4
3	Snowmobiling	15
4	Snowboarding	5.9
5	Cross-country skiing	5.6
6	Snowshoeing	3.8
7	Backcountry skiing	3.2
8	Skate skiing	2.4

	Snow Activities	Women
1	Sledding	26.8
2	Downhill skiing	23.1
3	Snowmobiling	16.5
4	Cross-country skiing	13.1
5	Snowshoeing	11.5
6	Backcountry skiing	9.3
7	Skate skiing	6.9
8	Snowboarding	5.9

	Snow Activities	Men
1	Downhill skiing	24.8
2	Sledding	24.3
3	Snowmobiling	21
4	Cross-country skiing	17.1
5	Snowshoeing	13.8
6	Backcountry skiing	7.5
7	Snowboarding	5.9
8	Skate skiing	2.9

Winter Trail Preferences

The following tables split out trail type by activity, showing the percentage of adults who participated in particular winter activities and used that type of trail for their activity at least once in the preceding 12 months.

Winter Activity	Groomed Trail
Skate Skiing	89.5
Cross-Country Skiing	59
Snowmobiling	41.3
Snowshoeing	10.2

Winter Activity	Marked Trail (not groomed)
Snowshoeing	24.5
Snowmobiling	23.1
Cross-Country Skiing	18
Skate Skiing	5.3

Winter Activity	Off Trail
Snowshoeing	65.3
Snowmobiling	35.7
Cross-Country Skiing	23
Skate Skiing	5.3

How Far Will They Travel?

When planning where to build outdoor recreation facilities, knowing how far people are willing to travel to take advantage of the facility is key. We asked Idahoans how far they would travel for a daytime activity, an activity that would include an overnight stay and an activity that would include two nights away from home.

Less than a day

For a recreational activity that takes less than a day, 51.8 percent of respondents would be willing to travel 1 to 2 hours. 29.2 percent would travel 2 to 3 hours, and 9.9 percent wanted to travel less than an hour. Meanwhile, 9 percent said they would travel 3 hours or more.	1 to 2 hours	51.8
	2 to 3 hours	29.2
	Less than 1 hour	9.9
	3 hours or more	9

An overnight stay

For a recreation site where they will spend only one night, 36.8 percent of respondents were willing to travel 2 to 3 hours, while 21.8 percent would travel 3 to 4 hours. Another large segment, 20.4 percent, were willing to travel 1 to 2 hours. It's worth noting that over 98 percent of respondents were willing to travel at least 2 hours for an overnight stay.	2 to 3 hours	36.8
	3 to 4 hours	21.8
	1 to 2 hours	20.4
	4 to 5 hours	8.2
	5 to 6 hours	5.6
	7 hours or more	3.6
	6 to 7 hours	2.1
	Less than 1 hour	1.6

Two nights away from home

For a recreation site where they will spend at least two nights , 22.7 percent of respondents were willing to travel 3 to 4 hours. Responses varied widely on this one, with more than 10 percent willing to travel 7 hours or more for a two-night trip.	3 to 4 hours	22.7
	2 to 3 hours	16.7
	5 to 6 hours	15.8
	7 hours or more	15.7
	4 to 5 hours	14.6
	6 to 7 hours	10.8
	1 to 2 hours	3.2
	Less than 1 hour	0.5

Camping Preferences

The table below shows the percentage of those respondents who said they camped at least once in the preceding 12 months. The table is sorted by percentage of adults who selected a particular camping method. Respondents were able to select as many methods as they wished. The columns for kids and dogs represent the percentage of respondents who indicated that they camped with those companions at least once during the preceding 12 months.

Vehicle camping with a tent and RV/trailer camping showed nearly identical participation levels for adults. These two camping methods were also the top two in all three campsite preference categories (next page), with RV/trailer campers showing a decided preference for developed over dispersed sites. Tent campers also seemed to prefer developed sites, though by a much smaller margin. These two groups showed the most interest in group campsites.

Campground developers and administrators should remain cognizant of the needs and numbers of tent campers. Though RV/Trailer campers are a more visible segment of the population by the nature of their camping units, tent campers are still just as significant. Developing sites that fit the needs of both groups should be considered, i.e., utility hookups for hard-sided campers and designated grassy or sandy areas for tent campers. Pricing structures should also take into account the different levels of utility services required by each type of camper.

It should be noted that numbers for cabin and yurt campers are probably more a reflection of availability than demand. Idaho currently has few of those camping opportunities. Cabins and yurts that are available in the Idaho state parks system are in high demand. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation has begun an aggressive cabin and yurt development program and expects to add an additional 36 units in 2003, bringing the statewide total to 46 within the system.

	Type of camping activity	Adults	Kids	Dogs
1	Vehicle camping with a tent	35.2	26.6	17.1
2	RV/trailer camping	34.2	23.4	16.6
3	Backpacking	11.3	6.7	5.5
4	Boat camping (Camped aboard your boat)	6.5	3.1	2.8
5	Public cabin	5.6	4.4	2.2
6	ATV camping (ATV brought you to your campsite)	5.5	4	2.6
7	Snow camping	4.3	3	1.6
8	Horseback camping (Horse brought you to campsite)	3.9	2.5	2.4
9	Bicycle camping (Bicycle to your campsite)	2.8	3.1	1.2
10	Motorbike (Motorbike brought you to your campsite)	2.6	1.9	0.3
11	Yurt camping	1.9	1.1	0.8

Camping Preferences by Gender

With some notable exceptions, there is little variation in camping preferences between men and women. Camping is often a family activity, so couples are often participating together. Men camp more often with ATVs and motorbikes, which is perhaps reflective of their higher level of participation in hunting. They also camp more often while backpacking, biking and using boats. It is interesting to note that women do more horseback camping and show a slight preference for cabin camping. Perhaps of most importance to planners, women are clearly more interested in yurts than men (though yurt camping was not a frequent activity of either group). This may be because yurts provide more of a sense of security than tents, for instance, and offer a convenient option for those without a lot of camping equipment.

	Type of camping activity	Women
1	RV/trailer camping	32.4
2	Vehicle camping with a tent	32.1
3	Backpacking	7.5
4	Public cabin	5.9
5	Boat camping (Where you camped aboard your boat, or used a boat to get you there)	5.3
6	Horseback camping (Where a horse brought you to your campsite)	4.7
7	ATV camping (Where an All Terrain Vehicle brought you to your campsite)	4.4
8	Yurt camping	4
9	Snow camping	3.4
10	Bicycle camping (Where a bicycle brought you to your campsite)	1.6
11	Motorbike (Where a motorbike brought you to your campsite)	1.6

	Type of camping activity	Men
1	Vehicle camping with a tent	37.1
2	RV/trailer camping	35.6
3	Backpacking	13.5
4	Boat camping (Where you camped aboard your boat, or used a boat to get you there)	7.2
5	ATV camping (Where an All Terrain Vehicle brought you to your campsite)	6.3
6	Public cabin	5.6
7	Snow camping	4.8
8	Horseback camping (Where a horse brought you to your campsite)	3.8
9	Bicycle camping (Where a bicycle brought you to your campsite)	3.3
10	Motorbike (Where a motorbike brought you to your campsite)	3.2
11	Yurt camping	0.8

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Campsite Type Preferences

The tables below show campsite type preferences, ranked by camping method. The percentages are of total respondents who camped in a particular type of site using the listed camping method at least once in the preceding 12 months.

	Type of camping activity	Developed site
1	RV/trailer camping	34.2
2	Vehicle camping with a tent	27
3	Public cabin	6.6
4	Backpacking	3.9
5	Boat camping (Where you camped aboard your boat)	2.8
6	Bicycle camping (Where a bicycle brought you to your campsite)	2.4
7	Horseback camping (Where a horse brought you to your campsite)	1.8
8	ATV camping (Where an ATV brought you to your campsite)	1.7
9	Yurt camping	1.7
10	Motorbike (Where a motorbike brought you to your campsite)	1.4
11	Snow camping	1.3

	Type of camping activity	Dispersed site
1	Vehicle camping with a tent	25.9
2	RV/trailer camping	22.3
3	Backpacking	11.7
4	ATV camping (Where an ATV brought you to your campsite)	6
5	Boat camping (Where you camped aboard your boat)	5.7
6	Snow camping	4.7
7	Horseback camping (Where a horse brought you to your campsite)	4.3
8	Motorbike (Where a motorbike brought you to your campsite)	2.5
9	Bicycle camping (Where a bicycle brought you to your campsite)	2
10	Public cabin	0.6
11	Yurt camping	0.3

	Type of camping activity	Group site
1	RV/trailer camping	9.9
2	Vehicle camping with a tent	8.5
3	Backpacking	1.5
4	Snow camping	1.1
5	ATV camping (Where an ATV brought you to your campsite)	0.9
6	Boat camping (Where you camped aboard your boat)	0.9
7	Bicycle camping (Where a bicycle brought you to your campsite)	0.7
8	Horseback camping (Where a horse brought you to your campsite)	0.7
9	Public cabin	0.7
10	Motorbike (Where a motorbike brought you to your campsite)	0.6
11	Yurt camping	0.5

Comparing Idaho and the Nation

ORDC was able to compare national recreation participation levels with Idaho participation levels in 28 activities. National statistics were gleaned from the 2000 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, conducted by the USDA Forest Service, Recreation, Wilderness, Urban Forest, and Demographic Trends Research Group.

Of the 28 comparable areas, Idaho's population out-participated the nation in 19. Rates were about the same in five categories and lower in four. While walking was the most popular outdoor recreation activity in both Idaho and the nation, only 64.3 percent of Idahoans walk for exercise or pleasure, compared with 83.8 percent nationally. Idahoans hiked more often, though, 55.3 percent compared with 33.4 percent nationally. Other recreational activities where Idaho's participation lagged behind that of the nation were windsurfing, sailing and photography—at least partially explained by our lack of an ocean.

It is worth noting that Idahoans participate much more in wildlife activities than the rest of the nation, especially when it comes to hunting. We hunt big game four times as often. Waterfowl hunting in Idaho is nearly six times as popular as it is nationally. Non-consumptive wildlife activities, such as viewing animals, was also higher than the national average.

Recreation Activity	National Participation	Idaho Participation	Extrapolated Idaho Population*
Participation in outdoor team sports (soccer, softball)	21.9	30.8	376,000
Mountain biking	20.9	26.2	320,000
Horseback riding	9.8	16.1	197,000
Walking for exercise or pleasure	83.8	64.3	786,000
Hiking	33.4	55.3	676,000
Backpacking	10.8	11.3	138,000
Camping at developed sites	25.4	34.2	418,000
Camping at primitive sites	15.4	22.3	272,000
Bird watching	33.3	35.9	439,000
Wildlife viewing (not birds)	41.9	51.8	633,000
Viewing fish	23.4	35.9	439,000
Photography	55.1	33.1	404,000
Hunt big game	8.2	34.2	418,000
Hunt small game	7	24.8	303,000
Hunt waterfowl	2.3	13.1	160,000
Downhill skiing	8.3	24	293,000
Snowboarding	4.6	16.3	199,000
Cross-country skiing	3.9	14.4	176,000
Snowmobiling	5.3	19.4	237,000
Sailing	5.1	2.3	28,106
Canoeing	9.5	14.9	182,000
Kayaking	3.2	6	73,000
Motor boating	24.4	22.9	280,000
Waterskiing	8.2	18.8	230,000
Personal watercraft	9.5	10.1	123,000
Rafting	9.7	16.2	198,000
Windsurfing	.8	.4	4,900
Swimming in natural water	43.8	44.8	547,000

* To aid in comparisons from activity to activity, the percentage of respondents answering affirmatively was extrapolated to the general population of Idaho over the age of five, 1,222,000, as estimated for 2001 by the US Census Bureau. Note that the figure has not been weighted for gender (significantly more males than females responded). Estimated population figures are rounded.

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Recreation Trends

Use projections should always be viewed cautiously. The preferred recreational activities of today may be the “been there, done that” activities of tomorrow. Recreational habits are influenced by weather, income, population growth, availability and other factors. Even so, it is useful to see what the projections are based on today’s patterns.

The 2002 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey was developed, in part, to establish baseline data for recreational activities in the state. In future years, using the same measures, we will be able to establish recreation trends statewide and , perhaps, county by county. Until such time as we have our own trend data available, it is useful to look at regional trends from another source. (Note that some trend data for motorized recreation is available in the updated Idaho State Trails and Boating plans included in this document).

J.M. Bowker, Donald B.K. English and H. Ken Cordell developed projection models for the publication *Outdoor Recreation in American Life: A national Assessment of Demand and Supply Trends*, 1999. It is the only ongoing, comprehensive assessment of outdoor recreation trends in the country. The researchers created models based on today’s behavior as sampled through the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment. State by state data are not available. The following activity participation projections from that study are for the Rocky Mountain Region.

Developed Land Activities Participation Projections		
Activity	2010	2020
Biking	+17%	+26%
Developed camping	+16%	+17%
Family gathering	+19%	+29%
Picnicking	+18%	+28%
Sightseeing	+21%	+32%
Visiting historic sites	+23%	+34%
Walking	+18%	+28%

Dispersed Land Activities Participation Projections		
Activity	2010	2020
Backpacking	+11%	+18%
Hiking	+15%	+24%
Horseback riding	+13%	+23%
Off-road driving	+9%	+17%
Primitive camping	+12%	+20%
Rock climbing	+6%	+20%

Water-based Activities Participation Projections		
Activity	2010	2020
Canoeing	+11%	+20%
Motor boating	+17%	+26%
Non-pool swimming	+14%	+24%
Rafting	+10%	+19%

Winter Activities Participation Projections		
Activity	2010	2020
Cross-country skiing	+31%	+41%
Downhill skiing	+14%	+15%
Snowmobiling	+6%	+10%

Wildlife-related Activities Participation Projections		
Activity	2010	2020
Fishing	+16%	+26%
Hunting	+5%	+12%
Non-consumptive	+20%	+30%

According to the authors, race and gender greatly affect recreational activity participation. White males are more likely to participate in water-based, winter, dispersed land activities and hunting, while women are more likely to participate in non-consumptive wildlife activities, picnicking and horseback riding. Race is a predictor in most activities, but it is not a factor in fishing, walking, picnicking and non-consumptive wildlife activities.

According to the study, demand for water-based recreation activities will grow faster than population growth in the Rocky Mountain Region in the next several years. These activities include non-pool swimming, canoeing and visiting a beach or waterslide. Additionally, the region will probably need additional urban recreation resources for biking, picnicking, family gatherings and walking, as well as the get-away-from-it-all resource of developed camping in coming years.

Research Limitations

The 2002 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey was primarily a tool for establishing baseline data on outdoor recreation in the state. Having a baseline is essential for tracking future trends. As such, though, it is a very limited snapshot of recreation. Primarily it recorded responses from people who had participated in an activity at least once during the past 12 months. It does not differentiate between people who have participated only once and people who have participated dozens or even hundreds of times.

Although the study was the first attempt by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to measure youth activity, it is also limited there. The responses are all from adults reporting on recreational activities of their children. Responses from the children themselves would likely have been significantly different in certain areas.

This was also the first study by IDPR that attempted to measure to what extent dogs are involved in human outdoor recreation activities. Though limited, the survey did show that dogs are a significant part of certain activities, particularly walking and hiking, both of which showed a canine participation rate of more than 25 percent.

The survey did attempt to gauge the needs of recreationists through open-ended questions regarding barriers to participation in their preferred activities. Respondents were asked to pick one recreational activity in which they would like to participate more often. They were then asked what the barriers to their participation were. While about 20 percent listed a lack of facilities as a barrier, it was impossible to match the need for facilities to a finite activity. That was because participants found it difficult to limit their recreational need to a single activity. They often responded with mixed activity answers such as “playing baseball and walking on the beach,” invalidating their responses. Future studies of need must recognize this weakness and include questions designed for a measurable response.

Due to the sample size and low response rate for some activities, such as rugby with 0.2%, the true participation rates may not be statistically valid. Further research on a regional and county level needs to be completed with a large enough sample size to assure validity.

In future surveys we must make a greater effort to assure that participation by gender is either more closely equalized or weighted to guard against gender bias. Males seem significantly more likely to respond to written surveys than females.

The greatest limitation of this survey, and most other needs assessments, is that it measured the what and not the why. That is, while we often produce tables showing participation rates in various activities, we seldom measure motivation. Without knowing why people are participating in a particular recreational activity, we are in danger of providing facilities that meet only part of their need. For instance, people might be using campgrounds because they need to get away from their everyday life. We would continue to build campgrounds in much the same way we always have, if that’s all we know about their needs. However, if we were to learn

that they also have a need for better security, we might respond by providing more onsite management and a higher percentage of cabins and yurts.

What if we found out that for most people catching fish is not the motivation for fishing? We would probably design fishing opportunities differently if we knew that most people were in it for the social companionship, or the competition, or the solitude, or the exercise.

While this study will serve us well as a baseline for establishing trends, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the Outdoor Recreation Data Center (ORDC) will continue to improve it to address the weaknesses outlined above. In addition, the ORDC plans to undertake additional activity specific research that will enrich our understanding of the motivations of outdoor recreationists.